

MAPLE VALLEY news

A local paper of today!

Hastings Public Library
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Hastings MI 49058-1817

MVN

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Vermontville Township informs library it must pay own utilities

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

In December, the Vermontville Township Board voted 4-1, with Supervisor Jack Owen casting the sole dissenting vote, to inform the Vermontville Township Library Board that the township would no longer pay the library's gas, electric, sewer or water bills.

While township board members contend that a millage renewed by voters in the August primary covers the cost of operations such as utilities, library board members say the township's funding cuts will cost library patrons services they now use.

Since it was established almost 60 years ago, the Vermontville Township Library has been housed in the basement of the Vermontville Opera House, which was then owned jointly by both the village and the township of Vermontville. At that time, the village paid for heat and light and the township paid the librarian's salary. In 1950, the township passed its first millage supporting the library.

A .75-mill levy was renewed by voters during the August primary by a 200-64 vote. The millage generates an estimated \$35,000 which, combined with state aid, penal fines and donations, gives the library an annual budget of approximately

\$55,000.

"They receive a millage for operations, and utilities are a part of operations," said Vermontville Township Treasurer JoAnne Nehmer. "The economy is tight, and we're trying to save our ambulance, and we're just doing what we have to do. Like everyone else, we have to cut our corners some."

Township Clerk Sharon Stewart cites the ballot language which stated that the millage is to "provide funds for operating, maintaining and equipping the Vermontville Township Library and for all other library purposes authorized by law."

She adds, "(the library board) states in (its) letter that the original millage was passed in 1950. So has the township general fund been paying for the library utilities for the last 59 years when they should not have been?"

The library board stated in a letter that since 1992, it has spent \$25,000 on improvements to the opera house including a new furnace and air conditioning, new carpet, a book drop, bike rack, lighting fixtures, remodeling the entrance, adding a bathroom and helping to cover the cost of repaving the parking lot which is also used for opera house functions.

Stewart said that is as it should be since the \$25,000 in improvements were paid

for with funds from the millage, which is partially earmarked for maintenance.

Stewart said that the total cost of gas and electric for the library from January through December of 2008 was \$3,141. But, since there is only one water meter for the entire building, it would be impossible to determine how much sewer and water is used by the opera house

and how much by the library.

"I will propose to the township board that until a second meter can be installed into the building, the general fund should continue to pay the sewer and water bills," said Stewart.

However, in a letter to the editor which appears in this week's edition of *The Maple Valley News*, the library board writes, "...We have

come up with some examples of what diverting even \$3,000 of our budget for utilities would mean: \$3,000 equals 120 adult books or 188 children's books or 150 DVDs or all our library programming for one year ... or one year's worth of computer technology upgrades and other supplies including DSL Internet fees, ... 375 staff hours, or one year of

staff continuing education."

Library Board Treasurer Shirley Harmon said the township board's letter was not a complete surprise. The township had mentioned withdrawing its support of the library last summer but was asked by the library board to at least wait until the next fiscal year or recon-

LIBRARY FUNDING, continued on page 6

Nashville Village Council approves and amends policies

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

Thursday night during its regular meeting, the Nashville Village Council approved a volunteer policy and amended its wood-harvesting policy. Both were passed by a 4-1 vote, with trustees Laurie Austhof and Mary Coll absent.

The amendment to the wood-harvesting policy states that when a tree is cut down in the right of way, the property owner has the right of first refusal on the harvested wood. A door hanger will be placed on the residents' door. If the resident does not want the wood, he or she simply signs the doorhanger and puts it in the mail or returns it to the vil-

lage office, declining the wood, which will then be picked up by the village.

However, if a resident wants the wood they have seven days to process the wood and remove it from the right of way after the tree has been cut down. Any wood remaining after seven days will be removed by the village. Council President Frank Dunham cast the dissenting vote.

The village adopted a volunteer policy, which stated that council approval of volunteers was needed only if the volunteer wished to use village equipment, then the council and department of public works supervisor would need to approve the volunteer. Volunteers under

18 years of age are not allowed to use village equipment during their service to the community.

Trustee Sandra Lundquist was the only council member to vote against the adoption of the policy. She objected to the fact that volunteers were, "at-will" and could be dismissed without an explanation.

In other action, the council unanimously approved a motion to appoint Lundquist to both the village's planning commission and zoning board.

The council also set its regular meeting dates for 2009-10 as 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of every month except November and December

when the council's second meeting of the month will be held on the fourth Tuesday, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The council also heard comments and questions from members of the audience regarding snow removal on village sidewalks, which Council Trustee Mike Kenyon said he would discuss with the DPW.

Nashville resident Gary White expressed his continued concerns with why the vacancy of the DPW supervisor's position was not posted before it was filled.

"It was an appointment; it wasn't a hiring, and I'm not

COUNCIL, continued on page 12

Students watch and learn about presidential inauguration

by Sandra Ponsetto
Staff Writer

The principals of each school in the Maple Valley School District left it up to teachers to determine if and when they watched Tuesday's inauguration of President Barack Obama and how much they incorporated the event into their classroom studies.

At Fuller Street Elementary School in Nashville, many kindergarten to third grade teachers let the student watch a portion of the inaugural ceremony and incorporated age-appropriate lessons.

Fuller Street first grade teacher Tammi King said her class was only able to watch a small portion of the actual ceremony because they were at lunch during most of that time. However, she put together a series of age-appropriate activities to teach her students about the inauguration and the office



Students in Tammi King's first grade class at Fuller Street created posters as part of their studies during inauguration week. Pictured are (front row, from left) Ava Robinson, Kelsey Meyers, Seth Wiehe, (back) Gloria Guernsey, Kaycie Schrader and Jenna Weiler.

of the president.

The students created posters featuring a picture of Barack Obama that they colored, a painting of themselves with the American flag and a letter to President Obama. In their letters, the children wrote to the president about some of the current events they had been learning about in class — the failing economy, global warming, the war in Iraq and

homelessness. They asked the president to solve these problems, if possible.

King's students also completed a "inaugural fun packet" that included information about the oath of office, the presidential address, inaugural parade and more, presented in the format of puzzles.

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- Putnam plans birthday party for library cat
- Junior high students hear from 'adopted' soldier
- Vegas is coming to Vermontville
- Watching and wondering
- Lion senior wins 100th but DK wins KVA dual

The Revue begins move to new home

Bill Reynolds, manager of The Revue, has started moving costumes and equipment from the Vermontville Opera House to the Masonic Lodge

in Nashville. Early Saturday Jan. 17, Bill and 11 friends loaded up trucks, cars and a trailer twice and began the move to

Nashville. After The Revue's current show, "Forever Plaid" closes Feb. 1, the remaining equipment will be moved and the opera

house will be cleaned by The Revue cast for the last time.

"I like change and I'm excited about all the possibilities of the new building," said Reynolds.

But on the other hand, he said it is sad leaving the opera house because of all the wonderful memories of 43 shows.

"Literally thousands of people have been on stage and in the audience," noted Reynolds. "Russ Laverty of the Vermontville Township Board was a pleasure to work with in scheduling auditions, practices and shows.

Children have grown up in the kid's shows put on by The Revue and gone on to perform in high school and college.

"Right now Chris Caldwell is in a show at Central Michigan University. Kathleen Welch, dance captain of this Vegas/Plaid show is study-

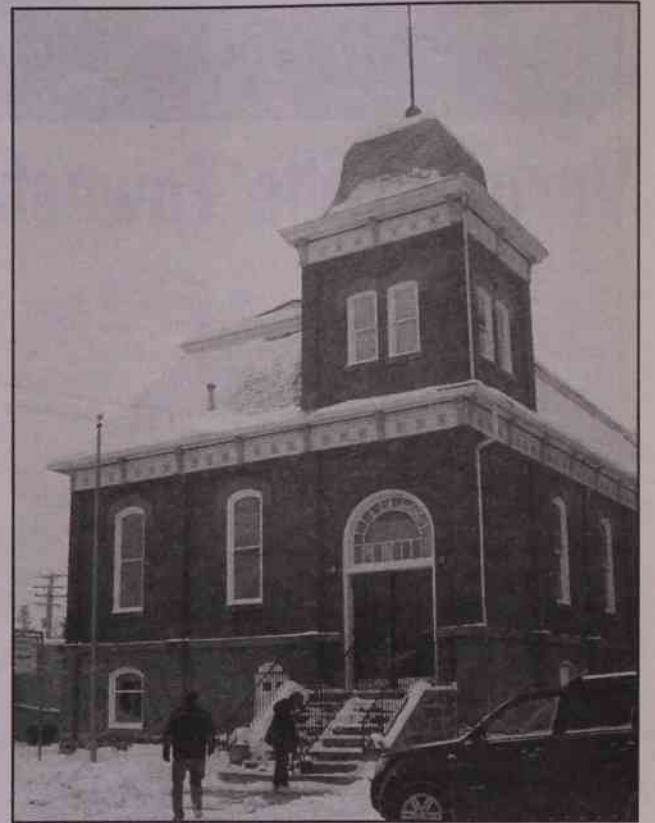
ing to go into theater and dance. Adam Zank, a senior at Maple Valley High School, has been in shows with The Revue since he was a little kid and now in the

Vegas/Plaid show he is a magician," said Reynolds.

REVUE BEGINS MOVE,
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Movers include (from left) Steve Shaughnessy, Bill Reynolds, Larry Winkler, Kim Harden, Megan Shoemaker, Hollie Auten, Sherry Shoemaker, Mark Shoemaker and Amber Farnum. Not pictured are Pat Campion, who took the photo, and Sheri Reynolds, who left to go mop the opera house floor.



The Vermontville Opera House was the first home of The Revue.



Bill Reynolds loads a truck on first moving day.



The Masonic Lodge in Nashville, owned by Dr. Michael Callton, will be the new home of The Revue.



Sherry Shoemaker loads a trailer. She has been with The Revue for nine years. She has been on stage but loves to work backstage and make and paint props, as well. Her five children have been in numerous shows.

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<p>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys & girls ages 4-12. Pastors David & Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. P.M. Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 8950 East M-79 Highway, Nashville Morning Celebration 10 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTOR: DON ROSCOE Phone: (517) 852-1783 e-mail: grace@gc3.org</p>	<p>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School 10 a.m. A.M. Service 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p>
<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p>	<p>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p>	<p>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5505 North Mulliken Road, Charlotte one mile north of Vermontville Hwy. PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:50 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 3rd Thursday</p>	<p>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service 11 a.m. P.M. Service 7 p.m. Wed. Service 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DEGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</p>
<p>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE 6043 E. M-79 Highway, 4 miles west of Nashville (cor. M-79 & Barryville Rd.) Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Other: Prayer Walk, U.M. Women, Bible Study, Mission Projects & more. PASTOR SUSAN OLSEN Phone 517-852-1993 IGNITING MINISTRY Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors</p>		<p>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH Corner of Kalamo Highway & Ionia Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship . . . 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 6 p.m.: PASTOR JEFF SWIFT (517) 852-9154</p>	
<p>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH M-79 West Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p>		<p>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m. FATHER AL RUSSELL A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p>	
<p>ST. ANDREW & MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call: 795-2370 or Rt. Rev. David Hustwick 948-9327 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. RT. REV. DAVID HUSTWICK</p>		<p>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service . . . 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service . . . 6:30 p.m. AWANA 6:30-8 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p>	
<p>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 108 North Main, Vermontville PASTOR KATHY SMITH 517-726-0526 Adult and Youth Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. Weekly Bible Studies United Methodist Women: 2nd Tuesday</p>			

HGB expands urgent care hours and adds new doctor

Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital Urgent Care in Charlotte now will be open longer hours and

have an additional physician to meet patient needs. The news hours for urgent care will be 10 a.m. to 10

p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The change takes effect Monday, Jan. 26.

"We expanded our hours because we are aware of a significant need for this type of service in our community," explained Bob McElmurry, vice president of professional services for HGB. "Though we always encourage patients to see their family physician first for all their health care needs, sometimes it isn't possible for a patient to get

into his or her doctor the same day they need care. Having this option means a parent can bring in a sick child right away, or someone who has hurt himself playing sports or working in the yard can be treated more quickly." HGB Urgent Care will continue to work closely with the emergency department at the hospital to handle more serious cases. For people who aren't sure where to go for which problems, a list of suggestions has been posted on the HGB Web site. HGB also has expanded

its medical staff with the addition of Dr. William Dunker to the urgent care department. He joins HGB Urgent Care Medical Director Dr. Scot Randall and a host of nurse practitioners and professional staff members. Dunker is board certified in both emergency and internal medicine, and is a fellow in the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dunker worked in the HGB Emergency Department previously in the mid-1990s before working

for a number of other health institutions in the Lansing area. Most recently, he served as the medical director of the urgent care center at Ingham Regional Medical Center. His emergency and urgent care background make him the perfect fit for HGB, said McElmurry.

The hospital also is renovating the urgent care area to make all patient exam rooms private. Signage has been updated, as well.

For more information about HGB and its services, visit www.hgbhealth.com.



Dr. William Dunker, M.D.

Putnam's winter reading program begins

Putnam District Library patrons looking to "Warm Up With A Good Book" will be excited to know the winter reading program started this week. Library patrons may sign up for free at the circulation desk and begin reading.

The program encourages people to read books from various sections of the library over 10 weeks of winter. This year, the adult reading program includes

teens age 13 and older. Readers will complete three different reading challenges: reading Putnam District Library (PDL) fiction favorites, reading PDL free choices, and completing the MeLCat interlibrary loan challenge. Readers will be asked to use a simple evaluation bookmark on eight books. Along the way, readers can earn a PDL ink pen, book warmers, cocoa, tea, cappuccino and a PDL coffee mug.

Stop in for more information and to get started.



This display at Putnam District Library promotes its new winter reading program.

Free resume writing class offered

Putnam District Library, in conjunction with the Maple Valley Center of Hope and Maple Valley High School business students, will host two free resume-writing classes for area residents. One session is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. A repeat session will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at 10 a.m. Both sessions will be held at the MVCCOH. All are welcome to come and participate.

"In our community and our world, there is a lot happening. Many are losing jobs. We are working to be

proactive in that we want to help people get jobs. We hope to give them the best opportunity possible for a successful interview," said Cathy Christman, president of the MVCCOH, who noted that professionals from the community and students from Maple Valley will be on hand to teach, help and advise as needed.

The library cooperative's mobile lab will be on site so attendees will be able to create their resumes on the spot. It is the goal that attendees leave with a created resume.

"The library's mission is to use its resources to meet the

needs of the community. We are glad to bring the mobile lab here and to help area residents pursue their job searches in a concrete way," said Shauna Swantek, Putnam Library director.

The library will provide follow-up support after the session by assisting attendees in proofreading and by making resume paper available for printing. Registration forms are available the day of the class, at the MVCCOH and at the library.

Questions can be directed to the library 517-852-9723 or by e-mailing Swantek at

putnamlibrary.director@yahoo.com or Christman at mvc-coh@live.com.

CMU announces summer graduates

Two local residents were among graduates earning degrees at the conclusion of summer semester at Central

Michigan University. Among the graduates were:

- Kari Emerick of Nashville, bachelor of science

in education degree. • Rebecca Walters of Sunfield, bachelor of science in education degree.

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FRI/MON/WED/TH 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:35, 6:15
FRI/MON/WED/TH 6:15

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:25, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
FRI/MON/WED/TH 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
SAT/SUN/TUE 12:15, 2:25, 4:40, 6:45, 9:00
FRI/MON/WED/TH 4:40, 6:45, 9:00

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Card of Thanks

THANK YOU
Special thanks goes out to my neighbors who saw my horse Rainey in trouble. She had broken through the ice on the pond. They got nylon straps around her and pulled her to safety. She had been in the water about two hours. Thanks to Jim Heyboer and wife, Bob Chapman, Rick Dean who pulled her out with his Blazer, also thanks to Mrs. Sebastian for use of backhoe.
Thanks a million folks. Sincerely grateful, Roger Brumm & Rainey

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From Our Readers

Local Citizens Speak Out On Issues

Library needs support of Township Board

To the editor:

We are writing to inform our patrons and to express our dismay with a recent letter from Sharon Stewart, Vermontville Township clerk, informing us that beginning April, the Vermontville Township Board will no longer pay the library's gas, electric, water and sewer bills.

There are several points we wish to raise.

First, a little history. According to records, 60 years ago, the beginning of a library in Vermontville was spearheaded by the Vermontville Women's Club "as it was well known that the townspeople as well as the people in the surrounding community wanted and needed such facilities..." It quickly became a community effort with the Vermontville Village Council granting use of a basement room in what was then called the "Town Hall, owned jointly by the Village of Vermontville and Vermontville Township."

Nineteen community organizations each appointed a committee of three to the new library board. They worked on clearing debris from the room, cleaning and painting it. Shelving was made from donated lumber, and a librarian's desk was given by the local school board. More shelves, tables and chairs were donated. An intensive door-to-door drive was made for books, more furniture and money. Curtains were made for the windows and "suitable art displays" were arranged all in time for the opening Feb. 12, 1949.

The Village of Vermontville "furnished the heat and light," and Vermontville Township paid

the "librarian's salary... and voted the annual sum of \$200 for books and equipment." In 1950, the public started its financial support of the library by passing a millage.

Now fast forward 60 years. The public has shown its continued support of the library by overwhelmingly passing the library millage renewal in August 2008. Additional funds come from state aid to public libraries, penal fines and donations. Grants provide many of the extras that our patrons use.

Somewhere over this time, Vermontville Township stopped appropriating money for the library although it continued its support by paying utilities. Now the township wants to withdraw even that support.

It seems counter to the original spirit of the library's beginnings. The point has been raised in the past that since the fire and ambulance board pays its own utilities so should the library. The people saying this rarely mention that the fire and ambulance board receive money from Vermontville Township in addition to their millage, to meet their budget. The library does not.

Since 1992, the library board has spent more than \$25,000 in improvements to the opera house building. This includes a new furnace and air conditioning unit, new carpet, book drop, bike rack, lighting fixtures, painting, adding a panic bar to the door, remodeling the entrance with a new door and lockset, adding a bathroom, remodeling the children's section and adding a handicap-accessible ramp. We have also paid our share of Vermontville Township's cost for paving the library's

parking lot, which also serves as a parking area for the opera house.

As library board members, we are very proud of our staff and the services and programs we provide to our patrons who have so generously given their support. Where else in town, besides the churches, can children, teens, adults and families go for year-round programs and entertainment? No place, other than the library, comes to mind.

Nowhere in Ms. Stewart's letter do we find any dollar estimation of the liability we are being asked to assume. However, we have come up with some examples of what diverting even \$3,000 of our budget for utilities would mean. That \$3,000 equals 120 adult books or 188 children's books or 150 DVDs, or all library programming for one year (children's summer reading, adult winter reading, Fall Fun for Families, Halloween, Easter and other contests, Santa's visit, movie nights) or one year's worth of computer technology upgrades and other supplies, including DSL Internet connection fees, or 375 staff hours, or one year of staff continuing education.

It is distressing to even consider reducing any service for our patrons who have done their part in continuing their financial support during these difficult economic times.

We find it extremely ironic that although the letter from Ms. Stewart mentions Vermontville Township's difficulty in balancing its budget, it has come to our attention that a 5.8 percent raise for Vermontville Township Board members is part of the township's budget draft for the upcoming fiscal

year. It makes us wonder whether they are expecting to finance that raise on the back of the library. Library board members receive no compensation.

The library is being asked to pay water and sewer for the entire building. This is a township building used for township business meetings as well as for public functions. There is no way to separate what the library uses.

We hope the Vermontville Township Board reconsiders its withdrawal of support from its own library. Over the past several months, Vermontville Township insisted on its name being placed on the library's savings accounts — and now they are asking us to financially support them.

We are requesting that Vermontville Township continue in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration upon which this library was formed by continuing to pay the utility bills for this building.

As we strive to maintain and improve the quality of library service our community has come to expect, we urge the patrons and supporters of the Vermontville Township Library to express their concerns on this matter to their township officials.

Janet Valdick,
Vermontville Library
Board president and fellow
board members

Take control of diabetes with proper nutrition education

For the nearly 600,000 people in Michigan living with diabetes, now is the time to take charge, according to Melanie Stanczak, registered dietitian for Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital.

Stanczak says people can start the new year healthfully just by learning more about their disease.

"Think about what your new year's resolutions are," says Stanczak, who manages the diabetes education program and support groups at HGB. "Are you on track to keep them, or do you need help?"

Whether it's losing weight, lowering A1c, exercising more or eating healthier, Stanczak says there are options for meeting goals. A special diabetes education program can help. So can joining a fitness program or just talking to a doctor.

HGB offers diabetes and nutrition education programs that can be tailored to a variety of needs. The programs are designed to teach people

how to prevent complications of diabetes, improve blood sugar control and plan balanced meals for weight loss and overall health.

For the diabetes program, a physician referral is all that is needed to get started, according to Stanczak.

HGB also offers a free monthly diabetes support group with expert speakers on topics such as nutrition, stress management, foot health and weight management.

"Sometimes being around others with the same issues can give you the motivation you need to get started," says Stanczak.

The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Trumley Education Center at HGB and is open to the public. Support group attendees receive a new diabetes-friendly recipe each month, and monthly door prizes will be raffled.

For more information, call Stanczak at 517-543-1050 ext. 1249.

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- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of for-profit businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer handwritten letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

Send your letters to: Editor c/o J-Ad Graphics, 1351 N. M-43 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058 or e-mail to: news@j-adgraphics.com

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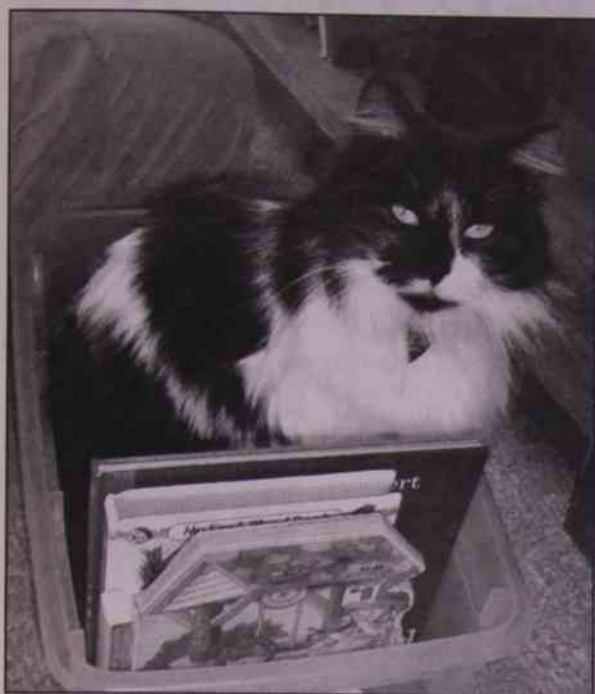
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Putnam plans birthday party for library cat



Cleo, Putnam District Library's resident cat, curls up with some good reading.

January has been month of the library cat at the Putnam District Library in Nashville, and the final event of the month will be a birthday party for Cleo the library cat. She is celebrating her second birthday, and the one-year anniversary of her stay at the library. Patrons young and old are invited to attend a birthday party for her at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.

A short storytime will take place, followed by party games, cake and presents. Those who are interested in

bringing a gift for Cleo, please ask at the front desk for a list of suggestions.

In addition, Cleo's new literary name will be revealed at the birthday party. Fuller Street Elementary students helped suggest names and will hold an election at school to choose from the top five suggestions. Students not attending Fuller Street are invited to cast their ballots at the library from Jan. 26 to 30.

Adults are reminded there

is still time to read *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* before the book discussion at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"The book is about so much more than a lovable cat. The book is a glimpse at the quiet positive force libraries can be in their communities. I hope that all who care about libraries, who see themselves as leaders in the community, or who believe in working toward positive change together will read this and join in our discussion," said

Library Director Shauna Swantek. Visit the library to borrow their copy of to request one from another library.

Hours at the Putnam District Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Feel free to call the library at 517-852-9723.

Junior high students hear from 'adopted' soldier

Students in Tonja Myers' junior high careers classes decided to take part in a service learning project this past November. Myers joined a program in which students adopted a soldier serving in Iraq and wrote letters.

The students and staff rallied together and wrote letters and created a care package to send to the soldier, which included a Maple Valley T-shirt and some of Maple Valley's very own syrup made by the Benedict family.

The soldier who Myers' classes adopted started out as part of the Air Force Reserves in Massachusetts. She has been in Iraq for approximately five months. Her name is Crystal Lamb, and the students were very interested to find out that she was the single mother of a young son whom she had to be separated from while she served the country.

The students decided to take their project one step further and write to her son and send him a care package as well. Lamb plans to continue serv-

ing in the military even after her time of service is up by re-enlisting.

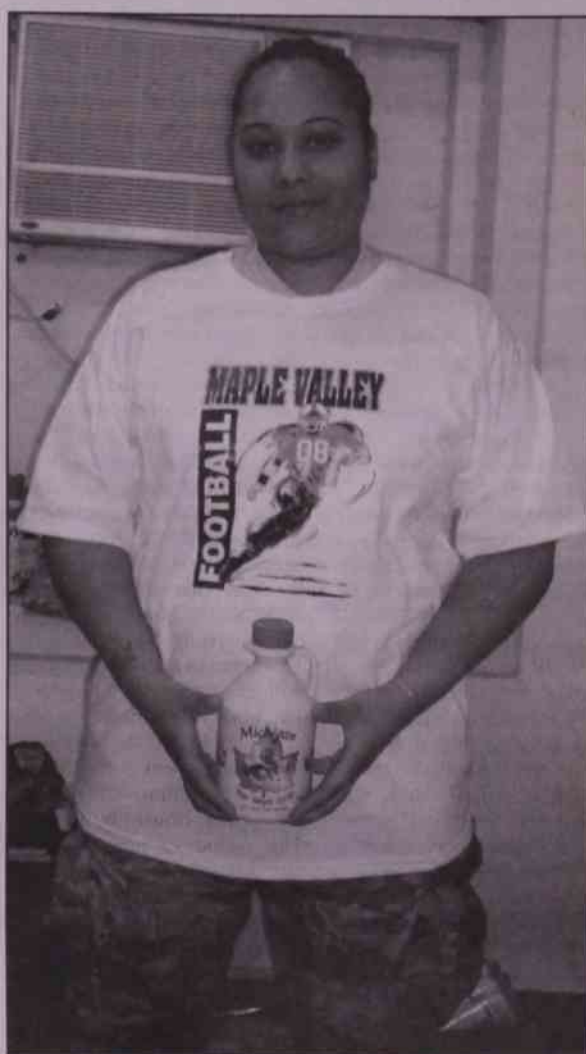
After much anticipation, Lamb wrote back to the students. The surprising part for the students was that she wrote each student a response.

Seventh grader Sam Benedict said, "I was surprised to learn that she has a big family like me. She has five sisters and two brothers."

Seventh grader Kyle Brumm received some encouraging words about his good grades from Lamb when she wrote, "I bet just from the grades that you get in school you will be able to get into any college you desire."

Myers said her classes would like to send a special 'thank you' to soldier Lamb.

"We really appreciate the time she took to respond to us," said Myers.



Crystal Lamb wears a Maple Valley T-shirt and holds a bottle of maple syrup from the Benedict family.

Thornapple Wind Band to perform Feb. 1

The mid-winter concert of the Thornapple Wind Band will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at Hope United Methodist Church just south of Hastings on M-37.

The band will share the stage with the Union City Community Choral and Director Phil Clissold.

"Joe LaJoye, conductor for the Thornapple Wind Band, has chosen a fantastic repertoire of music to be performed by the band," said announcer Victoria Steadman. "The audience will be charmed by Encanto, a most dramatic piece by Robert W. Smith."

Also included in the musical lineup is First Suite in B Flat by Gustav Holst. The rest will remain a surprise.

"This should be an afternoon of stunning musical performances by

both the band and the chorale," said Steadman. The chorale will perform 'God Bless America' and 'Lead On, Oh Eternal King' as they join musical forces with the band.

A reception will follow the concert, giving guests a chance to eat, mingle and meet band and chorale members.

The Thornapple Wind Band is a nonprofit organization and welcomes new musicians. Any adult who plays a musical instrument is invited to join the band for practice each Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. in the band room at Hastings High School.

The band serves to enrich the community by performing free musical concerts. For further information about concerts or band membership, call Kim Domke at 269-945-9181 or Mike and Kathy Scobey at 616-374-7547.

Early 4s learn about pizza

This week, the Early 4s classroom at Fuller Street Elementary in Nashville focused on one of its favorite things to eat — pizza.

"We made our own English muffin pizzas, which were delicious to eat," said teacher Shannon Powers. "We also did various art projects, played several counting and learning games and read a variety of books, all dealing with pizza. Our dramatic play center was turned into a pizza parlor this week, and students enjoyed taking and filling pizza orders."

Next week, the Early 4s will be learning about author Eric Carle.



Early 4s students enjoy English muffin pizzas. Pictured are (from front, moving clockwise) Dominic Rosa, Gary Priesman, Stormy White, Jori Spencer, Isabelle Swift, Jamie Steele and Caden Faurot.

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LIBRARY FUNDING, continued from page 1

sider.

"There's really no place in this town for kids to congregate except the library. The girls at the library say that they have a bunch of kids down there every night after school until closing," said Harmon, who added, "It's not just kids, either. There are a lot of adults that use the library, too. We have a lot of homebounds, who can now use the library's new Destiny program to view books available on the library shelves and put them on hold until

they can have someone come in and pick them up or we can have someone bring them out to their home."

The library board also wrote, "We find it extremely ironic that although the letter from Ms. Stewart mentions Vermontville Township's difficulty in balancing the budget, it has come to our attention that a 5.8 percent raise for Vermontville Township Board members is part of Vermontville Township's budget draft for the upcoming fiscal year."

Stewart countered that the 5.8 percent pay raise is based on COLA (cost of living allowance) which amounts to a yearly increase of \$46 for each of the township's two trustees, \$443 for the supervisor, \$646 for the clerk, \$14.50 for each of the township's three board of review members, and \$624 for the treasurer for a total of \$1,848.50.

Stewart suggested that the library board could trim its budget by reducing the number of staff working in the library during the day when school is in session.

"In response to them having to cut 375 staff hours, I asked the library board member why there have always been three staff members working at the library every time I stop in. I was told they agreed to have three working in the summer when they are busiest with the kids, but she didn't know why they still have three working," said Stewart.

In its letter, the library board alleges that the township fire and ambulance board receives money from the general fund in addition to its 1-mill levy in order to help the fire and ambulance department meet its budget.

"Not true," said Stewart. "The fire department operates on 1 mill. There was a question by our auditors pertaining to the 'due to/due from' accounts where, for the past several years (and they can't be sure how many, so you know it was a long time ago), some time in the past the general fund either gave or loaned the fire fund something like \$20,000. No one on the township board or

the fire department can remember when or what it was for, or if it was a gift or a loan. So, under the circumstances, the township board voted to forgive the debt and remove it from the books. The state told our auditors it had to be off the books one way or another, so we chose to forgive it because we couldn't prove it was loan. That's the only money the general fund ever 'gave' fire department that we know of."

Stewart went on to say that the ambulance is part of the general fund budget, so the township does supplement them. "They do not have any operating millage at this time," she added.

The library board said they hope the township will reconsider its withdrawal of support.

"Over the past several months, Vermontville Township insisted on its name being placed on the library's savings accounts — and now they are asking us to financially support them," wrote board members in their letter. "We are requesting that Vermontville Township continue in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration upon which this library was formed by continuing to pay the utility bills for this building."

Stewart concluded by saying, "We have had to make cuts in our budget every year. Sometimes it just comes to that."

The next regular meeting of the Vermontville Township Board is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in the Vermontville Township Fire Barn.

Area Obituaries

Leon R. Frith

NASHVILLE - Leon R. Frith, age 73, of Nashville passed away Saturday, January 17, 2009 peacefully at his Nashville home. He was surrounded by loving family while he made his transition.

Leon was born in Sunfield, on July 16, 1935, the son of the late Edward D. and Laura D. (Potter) Frith. He was raised in the Nashville area and attended local schools graduating from W.K. Kellogg High School in 1954.

He was the husband of Bernice (Maurer) Frith for 54 years. The couple was married on May 29, 1954 at St. Cyril Catholic Church. They spent their lives with one another in the Nashville area where they raised their four daughters together.

Leon has been a member of St. Cyril Catholic Church in Nashville since 1954. He had been an active member of the Knights of Columbus since 1961 and had achieved the status of 4th degree Knight.

Leon owned and operated several service stations in Nashville over the years. He was also the director of the Village of Nashville's Department of Public Works for over 18 years, retiring in 1993.

Leon enjoyed many hobbies including gardening, cooking, woodworking, playing the organ and hot glass.

Leon is survived by his beloved wife Bernice; his four loving daughters, Cynthia Stadel, LuAnn



(Duane) King, Rose Mary (Dave) Heaton, and Michelle Dunkelburger; a brother, Herb (Phyllis) Frith; a half sister, Naomi Frith, and a half brother Ken (Marilyn) Frith. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his siblings John, Frank "Joe," Ashley, Anna, Mable, Caroline, Charles, George, and his son-in-law Tony Dunkelburger.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Cyril Catholic Church, Nashville, on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 with Father Al Russell officiating. Interment took place immediately following the funeral service at Lakeview Cemetery, Nashville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Holy Cross Children's Services.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville.

Jeanette R. Bowen (Friddle)

NASHVILLE - Jeanette R. Bowen (Friddle), age 77, of Vermontville/Nashville passed away Monday, January 19, 2009 at Eaton Community Hospice, in Charlotte.

Jeanette was born in Hastings, on May 14, 1931, the daughter of the late Clare and Edna (Miller) White. She was raised in the Hastings and Freeport areas and attended local schools there.

Jeanette married Paul Friddle on Oct. 10, 1947. The couple was married 55 years when Paul passed away in 2003. She re-married Mr. Al Bowen on May 14, 2005. The couple made their home together in the Nashville and Vermontville areas.

Jeanette spent several years serving as a custodian at the Nashville Baptist Church where she attended, but also worked at McDonalds in Hastings and Charlotte to keep busy.

Jeanette loved her Lord, family, grandchildren and her many friends.

Jeanette is survived by her beloved husband Al; a daughter, Martha (Jerry) Larson; four sons, Mitchell Friddle, Martin Friddle,

Paulee (Rita) Friddle, Gary (Sherry) Friddle

Jeanette is also survived by a sister, Alice (Ivan) Thomas; a brother, Clare (Joyce) White; her daughter-in-law, Linda Friddle; brother-in-law Merrill Friddle; her stepchildren, Kay (Bill) Niccols, Janice (Mark) Kersjes; and her grandchildren Beverly, Adam, Tammy, Kala, Jacob, William and Abby. Also surviving are 11 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and many step and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Richard and Hugo; her sons, Steve and David; her grandson, Jason and her husband, Paul.

A memorial luncheon will be held at the Nashville Baptist Church, Nashville, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to the Maple Valley Scholarship Fund, Nashville Baptist Church, or Eaton Community Hospice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Maple Valley Elementary Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 26

Grilled cheese. Tomato soup, pears, Animal Crackers.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Breakfast pizza. Potato wedge, apple slices, petite cinn. roll.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Cheeseburger. Smile potatoes, pineapple man, oranges, cookie.

Thursday, Jan. 29

Pizza bagels. Tossed salad, peaches, pudding.

Friday, Jan. 30

Macaroni and cheese. Green beans, fruit cocktail, birthday cake.

NOTE: Fuller Alternative Entree Choices: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, honey and peanut butter sandwich.

Maplewood Alternative Entree Choices: 6 oz. Yogurt w/string cheese, chef salad, peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Maplewood offers a variety of healthy snacks for 50 cents each (cash only; quarters or dollars only).

Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Assorted bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.30; Lunch price: \$1.90; Adult price: \$2.75; milk only: \$.45.

Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 26

Chicken fries. Mashed potatoes, peaches. Salad bar.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Chili w/corn bread. Whole kernel corn, pears. Mexican bar.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Quesadilla. Green beans, pineapple upside down cake. Baked potato bar.

Thursday, Jan. 29

Kellogg Cottage Inn. Cottage Inn. Veg. medley, Jell-O w/fruit. Pasta bar.

Friday, Jan. 30

Tater tot casserole. Whole kernel corn, banana. Country chicken bar.

NOTE: Entree's available daily: cheeseburger, variety of chicken sandwiches, pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish sandwich, honey and peanut butter sandwich, 6 oz. yogurt w/string cheese.

Side choices available daily: garden salad, juice, fresh fruit. Milk is included with all full meal purchases. Seconds available on vegetables at no additional charge. Assorted bread choices daily.

Breakfast price: \$1.45; Lunch price: \$2.25-\$2.50; Adult prices: \$2.75-\$3.00. Milk only: \$.45.

School Board elects new officers, sets two public meetings

At its Monday, Jan. 12, meeting, the Maple Valley Schools Board of Education elected new officers for the 2009 school year. This election took place now, instead of the normal July meeting, because the board had switched its public vote on board members to November of even years only, as a cost-savings measure. Teresa Allen was elected president, April Heinze vice president, Tim Burd treasurer and Andrea Montgomery secretary. Visit the district's Web site under the board's heading

for minutes from the meeting and the other committee appointments.

The board, along with our community, is facing two very tough issues this coming year: the continuing problem with the economy and its resulting effect on the district's budget. The second major issue is the district's infrastructure, specifically, 50-year-old boilers in Fuller, Maplewood and at the high school must be addressed.

With these two pressing issues facing the board, two meetings have been set. The board urges the public to attend and share input. The first meeting will be Monday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building. This meeting will be a board training session on how next year's budget will be developed, along with time lines and setting public hearing dates.

The second meeting the public is invited to is Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. again in the board room. This meeting will be a discussion of the boilers and

SCHOOL BOARD,
continued on page 8

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Social News

STUDENTS, continued from page 1



Martin-Aronin

Timothy and Kari Burd of Nashville and Wesley "J" Martin of Jackson, would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lacey Lynn Martin to Benjamin Joseph Aronin, son of Katherine and the late Hyman "Gene" Aronin of Delafield, Wisconsin.

Lacey graduated from Miller College of Battle Creek with a bachelor of science in liberal studies in 2007 and is currently employed as a full inclusion teacher with KIPP: New Orleans.

Ben graduated from Northern Michigan University with a bachelor of science in marketing in 2006 and is currently an Americorps volunteer with Trinity Christian Community while beginning his own basketball ministry, Pressing On.

The two met while serving as missionaries for the organization Mission Year. They are planning a February 21, 2009 wedding in Nashville and will reside in New Orleans, Louisiana after their honeymoon.



VanAlstine-Soderberg

Kyla VanAlstine is proud to announce the engagement of her daddy, Travis V. to Amy Soderberg.

A wedding is being planned for August 2009.

mazes and coloring pages.

At Maplewood, while the fourth through sixth grade teachers determined if and how they introduced the inauguration into their classrooms, school social worker Kathy Hogg and the student council organized a school-wide activity in recognition of the National Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which was observed Monday, Jan. 19.

Stations were set up in the cafeteria, and during their lunch hour, students were able to create greeting cards for residents of a local nursing home. The National Martin Luther King Day of Service was created by

Pennsylvania Sen. Harold Woffard and Atlanta Congressman John Lewis and signed into law in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. Two weeks prior to his inauguration, then President-Elect Obama encouraged citizens across the country to observe the day with service in their communities.

Maple Valley High School Principal Todd Gonser said all the teachers were advised to have the TV on and allow students to watch the inauguration if possible.

High school social studies teacher Chris Ricketts said he had the television on his room all day, but would stop regular studies and discus-

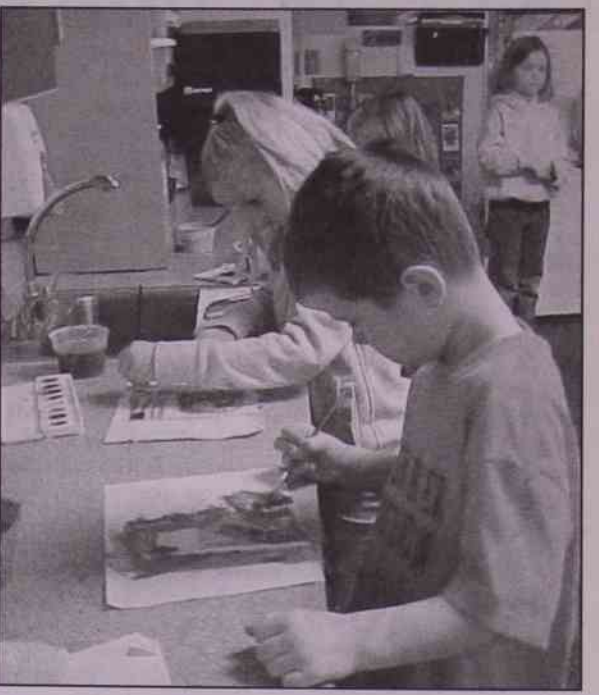
sion during key parts of the ceremony so students could watch.

"My emphasis was on the orderly and smooth transition of power and how important the inauguration is to protect our country's image of stability," said Ricketts. "I think the students understood what it was all about, even though it was probably the first one that many of them had ever watched.

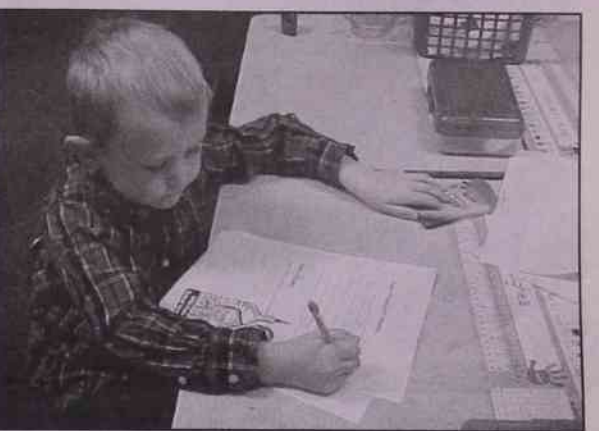
"I think they enjoyed it — even listening to the oath with its little snafu," he added. "I walked through the halls, it looked like everyone had it tuned in. The kids were really interested."



Maplewood students (from left) Sam Bonney, Emma McGlocklin, Erika Burkett and Samantha Burkett create greeting cards for nursing home residents as part of the National Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



Conner Barke and Jenna Weiler paint pictures of themselves with an American flag. (Photo by Tammi King).



Chase Hughes, a first grader at Fuller Street Elementary, writes a letter to President Barack Obama. (Photo by Tammi King).

Vegas is coming to Vermontville

Local folks can get dressed up and go out on the town but they don't have to fly to Vegas. Vegas is

coming here, sort of. An evening of dessert/coffee theater entertainment will include

a fortune teller, magic act, chorus line, lounge singer and musical comedy. "Forever Plaid."

The Revue is proud to present it's 43rd show, the last one to be performed in the Vermontville Opera House at 211 S. Main St. (The spring children's musical, "Willie Wonka, Jr.," will be the first show May 1 through 10 in The Revue's new building at the Masonic Lodge in Nashville.)

Show dates for Vegas Night and "Forever Plaid" are Friday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7, Sunday, Jan. 25, at 3, Friday, Jan. 30, at 7, Saturday, Jan. 31, at 7, Sunday, Feb. 1, at 3 p.m.

Reserved table seating with dessert and beverage service is \$12 per person. General admission in the balcony is adults \$8, seniors/students \$7, children (5-



Dave Eddy and Adam Zank are the magician duo. 12) \$5. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 517-285-4037 (note new number) or e-mail therevue1@yahoo.com to reserve a table or open seating in the balcony. Tables seat no more than six people. Balcony seats will be available on a first-come, first served basis.



Ryan Rosin plays some kind of instrument.

09060014

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COUNSELORS CORNER

Free (yes, really free) tutoring

Great news, actually fantastic news ... The Maple Valley Community Center of Hope is offering free tutoring for students K-12. The tutoring is offered Tuesday and Thursdays after school. There are two times slots available, 3-4:30 and 5-7:30. Tutoring will be held in room A-6 of the junior high hallway. You can contact the school or call 517-852-9664 for more information. Please use this service. It is a great opportunity for your kids.

Some good news to share

Todd Gonser and I attended a meeting in Lansing regarding our school's test results on the Explore and the Plan tests. Our kids took these tests in March 2008. The Explore test is given to freshmen. The Plan test is given to sophomores. The idea is to compare results of the two tests and track the groups of students. Using the results of these tests, we can easily chart student success from year to year. The data we received at the meeting

showed some really good news. Our students consistently scored higher in all four areas of college readiness than the national average. We scored 7 percentage points higher in the PLAN test, which would be this year's group of juniors. We are glad to share this with you. Our teaching staff has been working very hard over the past few years to teach students updated information and important standards which will help them succeed on these tests and ultimately in their futures. It's really neat to watch this success measured on the test results. We are proud of our kids and the work of our staff.

What you need to know ... please help us help your high school student

The State of Michigan changed graduation requirements a couple of years ago. Students graduating after 2011 must take and pass four years of math and English, three years of science and history, a health class, PE class, a year each of arts, computers and consumer education. In addition, students need various electives

to have enough credits to graduate with a Maple Valley diploma. These standards are tough but can be accomplished with the help of teachers, staff and parents. We have met with students to explain why they must pass classes and work hard to succeed, but we need your help. Please talk to your child. Explain that these changes make their 'job' as a student more important than ever. Expect them to do their best, challenge them to set goals for their future, encourage them with rewards and positive words for a job well done.

Junior high field trip refund information

The junior high field trip, scheduled the day before Christmas break, was canceled, a casualty of snowy weather. The money collected will be transferred to cover the spring field trip expenses.

Mobile dentist canceled

A visit to the school from the mobile dentist has been canceled due to lack of interest. However, the school hopes to reschedule a visit at a later date.

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Karen K. Nicholson and Robert L. Nicholson, married, to Washtenaw Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated June 4, 2001 and recorded June 18, 2001 in Instrument Number 1061652, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Chase Home Finance LLC by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six and 13/100 Dollars (\$39,896.13) including interest at 7.5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings in Barry County, Michigan, at 1:00 p.m. on FEBRUARY 12, 2009. Said premises are located in the Village of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The South 1/2 of Lots 714 and 715, except the North 11 feet of said Lots, being in the City, formerly Village of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 10, 2009 Orlans Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 248-502-1400 File No. 310.3800 ASAP# 2965432 01/10/2009, 01/17/2009, 01/24/2009, 01/31/2009 06685451

SCHOOL BOARD, continued from page 6

what options the district has. An energy management company the board has been working with will present its thoughts on how the board might be able to use a Michigan legislative opportunity to replace a

couple of the boilers and other energy changes that could save \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually in energy costs. These savings could then be used to pay off a loan the district would take out to do the work over the next 15 years, resulting in an annual neutral cash-flow situation. The board is actively seeking any and all options to solve this dilemma. Although this option would not fully take care of the infrastructure issues, it would get the district moving toward fixing the problems without having to go to voters for more millage.

Please consider these two meeting and be informed fully of the issues facing your board of education.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act which collectively make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, age or marital status, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To report discrimination call the Fair Housing Center at 616-451-2980. The HUD toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



THE LAKEVIEW CEMETERY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Friends and Volunteers of the Lakeview Cemetery are looking for donations of materials, money, and volunteers to build a 24x24 pole barn, which will be used to store our cemetery equipment. Our goal is to restore our Teen Smith Chapel as a chapel and not use it for storage. For more information please call Sandra Lundquist at 517-852-1543. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated.

Lakeview Cemetery Board

06686088

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Friends of the Cemetery Volunteer Program are looking for people who are willing to help with the Lakeview Cemetery upkeep. Anyone interested in serving in a volunteer program doing needed ground work (mowing, painting, weeding & general maintenance) should contact Sandra Lundquist at 517-852-1543.

Lakeview Cemetery Board

06686091

In My Own

Write

by Sandra Ponsetto



Watching and wondering

I have to confess that unlike some of my co-workers, I am not a political animal. I have no party loyalty; I only designate a party so I can vote in the primary election. My attitude is due in large part to the fact that, since I have been old enough to vote, I have always felt that during a presidential election my only option was to vote for "the lesser of two evils." That's why I was surprised to discover that: One, during the last election I actually felt there was a candidate worthy of my vote, and two, I was actually looking forward to watching the inauguration on Tuesday — something I had never bothered to do before.

I was driving back from an appointment in Grand Rapids Tuesday morning when my husband called me on my cell phone to ask if I wanted to join him for lunch at Applebee's in Hastings.

"I don't know ..." I said, "I was really looking forward to going home and watching the inauguration on TV while we had lunch ... wait, they have TVs at Applebee's, right? Yeah, let's go there then I can see the inauguration and also see how other people in the community are respond to it."

When I walked into the restaurant, all its TVs were tuned into the inaugural ceremony and Itzhak Perlman was playing a solo in John Williams' "Air on Simple Gifts"

"I didn't miss anything, did I?" I asked as I slid into a booth with my husband.

"No, the actual swearing-in will start at noon," he said.

While Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and the others finished their music, Mike and I quickly perused the menu and placed our orders and returned to watching the televised ceremony. Normally, I would have considered such behavior boorish. But, this was a

rare opportunity to watch history in the making and watch others reacting to it as well, so we set manners aside for the time being.

As I watched Barack Obama take the oath of office, I also scanned the restaurant to see if others were watching and try to note their reactions. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised since, as I said before, I myself had never bothered to watch an inauguration, but I was shocked to see that not one other person stopped to watch and listen. Groups of women talked animatedly, couples chatted and enjoyed their lunches, mothers and grandmothers doted on little children and tried to coax them to eat, and a table of men appeared to be talking business. Few gave the TVs more than a passing glance.

People, this is history in the making! I thought. America, the country that has always prided itself as being a land of equality, is swearing its first African-American president — 140 years after slaves were freed and 43 years after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ensured that people of all races were able to cast their ballots. Pay attention! "Mike, nobody else is watching," I said.

"You're right, they're not," he said bemused.

Nobody looked up. Not when the Supreme Court Justice stumbled over the words of the oath of office. Not when the new president addressed the country. I saw four people look up and watch for less than a minute when applause and cheers roared through the audience of over 1.8 million filling the mall in front of the capital at the end of Obama's speech. Then it was back to eating and chatting as if nothing momentous had just happened.

I'm still not sure what to

think about what I observed in the restaurant. I can understand being distracted by small children. It seems like only yesterday that a trip to a restaurant meant trying to get overstimulated and squirming toddlers to sit still long enough to eat a few bites of food. But what about the rest of the adults? Of course, its possible they had important issues to discuss. Maybe they were with friends and family they hadn't seen in a long time and they had a limited time to catch up on months or even years of their lives. Or, maybe they simply didn't care.

But if that's the case, my question is why? Did they not care because, like my former self, they simply weren't interested in politics? Did they vote for McCain and now do not want to see his victorious opponent sworn in? Were they — I dread to think it — still harboring racial prejudices? I hope not.

I'd like to think that people didn't care to watch because they knew that the best man had won and the country was in good hands — that we have grown as nation to a point where we can look beyond color and see character, where intelligence and integrity count for more than being an insider.

Call me naive, I probably am. But, I'd also like to think that this also means that in my lifetime, if we have the right candidate, America will also elect its first female president. Moreover, I hope that someday electing a woman or minority to our highest government office will cease to be anything of note, that it will be considered commonplace, even expected. When that happens, we will finally be living up to the ideals of our nation's constitution — a country where all men, and women, are equal.

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PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Nashville will hold a Public Hearing on February 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 203 N. Main.

PURPOSE: To discuss the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 budget year.

THE BUDGET BEING DISCUSSED IS BASED ON THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED FOR THE SUMMER OF 2009.

The 2009-10 budget will be voted on during the regular Council Meeting to be held immediately after the Public Hearing. 06686094

Lion girls 5th in small-school division at Hastings



The Lions' Kayla Alexander shouts out to the crowd as she and her teammates do the splits during round three Saturday in Hastings. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood's varsity competitive cheer team was the only team to score more than 200 points in round two, and the only team to score more than 300 points in round three as the Vikings won the Varsity Upper Division with a total score of 735.46 at Saturday's Saxonfest in Hastings.

"This was our best score," said Lakewood head coach Kim Martin. "I think the best I've ever had of any team I've ever coached score. The girls did a great job today."

Lakewood scored a 217.7 in round one, a 212.560 in round two, and a 305.2 in round three.

The second best overall total on the day was by Otsego, the Varsity Lower Division champion. The Bulldogs totaled a score of 707.1336.

Martin was excited for her team to top Otsego, because they'll meet again in the district tournament. The Bulldogs have made a habit of making the state finals in recent years.

"We're putting more girls on the mat," Martin said. "Last year we had ten out. This year we had 14. And we're older. Last year we were all sophomores, now we're all juniors and seniors."

The Hastings Middle School Gold team won the championship in its division, with the Hastings Blue team placing second. Hastings won the junior varsity competition. The Saxon varsity team was second to Lakewood in the Varsity Upper Division.

"It was a very good day for all of us," said Saxon varsity head coach Amy Hubbell. "I'm excited.

That makes me happy."

Hastings' varsity girls had the second best round one and round two scores, behind Lakewood, and the third best round three score in their division.

In the Varsity Upper Division, Hastings was second with a 206.7 in round one, 194.8288 in round two, and a 273.8 in round three for a total of 675.3288. Wayland was third with a 673.4872. Rogers 565.9256.

Behind Otsego in the Lower Division, Delton was second with a total of 617.3472, followed by Belding 602.2, Portland 599.920, and Maple Valley 506.2.

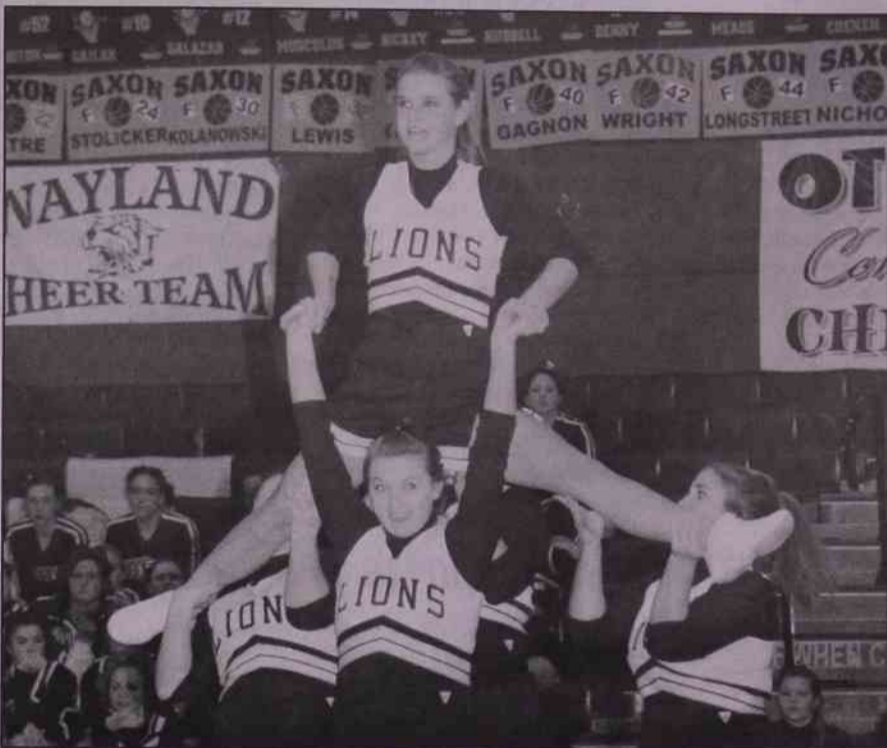
"They did really, really, really good today," Delton Kellogg head coach Zoe Reynolds said of her team.

"They're just figuring it out and starting to come together as a team."

Delton scored a 195.4

just under the numbers that the Lions earned in the first Southern Michigan Competitive Cheer Conference jamboree of the season.

The Lions, and the Delton Kellogg Panthers, will return to SMCCC action this Wednesday as Climax-Scotts hosts the conference for a second jamboree. Maple Valley follows that up with a trip to Battle Creek Central next Saturday.



Maple Valley's Lindsey Hoffman is lifted up by her teammates during the third round competition at Saturday's Saxonfest in Hastings. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

BARRY CO. EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 26 Rabbit Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 27 New Leader Orientation, 7 p.m., Extension Office.
- Jan. 29 Officer Training and Parliamentary Procedure Workshop, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church in Hastings.
- Jan. 31 Green and White Hog Show, 8 a.m., MSU Pavilion.
- Jan. 31 State Rabbit and Cavy Show, 8 a.m., MSU Pavilion.
- Feb. 2 Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Feb. 9 Horse Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Feb. 12 Master Gardener Class, 6:30 p.m., MSU Experimental Station in the Clarksville (registration required).
- Feb. 16 Poultry Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Hastings.
- Feb. 19 RUP Training, 9 a.m.-noon, MSU Experimental Station in Clarksville.
- Feb. 19 RUP Testing, 1-3 p.m., MSU Experimental Station in Clarksville.
- Feb. 20 State Awards Workshop, 6 p.m., Ionia County MSU Extension Office.
- Feb. 20 Dairy Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.

Thornapple Manor the Barry County owned skilled nursing facility, has opening for a **Semi-skilled Maintenance** position: Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and have a minimum of two years operational experience in institutional or commercial HVAC systems, food service, and related refrigeration equipment, and a working knowledge of electrical and plumbing systems maintenance.

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REVUE BEGINS MOVE, continued from page 2

"The list goes on and adults, as well, have stepped out of their comfort zones and discovered their talents.

"Dave Eddy, a detective with the Michigan State Police, and Harmony Cullimore, a massage therapist with Rolle' Chiropractic are both making their debut to the Revue stage in the Vegas/Plaid show."

Bill, a Maple Valley graduate, returned to the community after college, with the dream of creating a high-quality community theater.

Comstock 515.5236, and Hamilton 509.522.

"We still have to really work on our round three," Hubbell said. "We need more confidence. They need so much more confidence."

"They need to be on auto pilot. If you're not, you get up in front of those people and it's pretty scary."

in round one, 179.547 in round two, and 242.4 in round three.

Like the Saxons, Reynolds said that her team is now looking to start polishing its third round performance.

Maple Valley scored a 161.8 in round one, 137.500 in round two, and 206.9 in round three. Those first two round scores were

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Lion senior wins 100th, but DK wins KVA dual

by Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Dusty Cowell's party wasn't much of a celebration.

The Maple Valley varsity wrestling team's senior 215-pounder just walked out to the center of the mat and had his hand raised Wednesday night, as the host Panthers forfeited the weight class to

him at Delton Kellogg High School.

The victory was the 100th of Cowell's career.

"This has nothing to do with wrestling, but Dusty is our captain and he has learned how to be a captain which makes that 100th win something special," said Maple Valley head coach

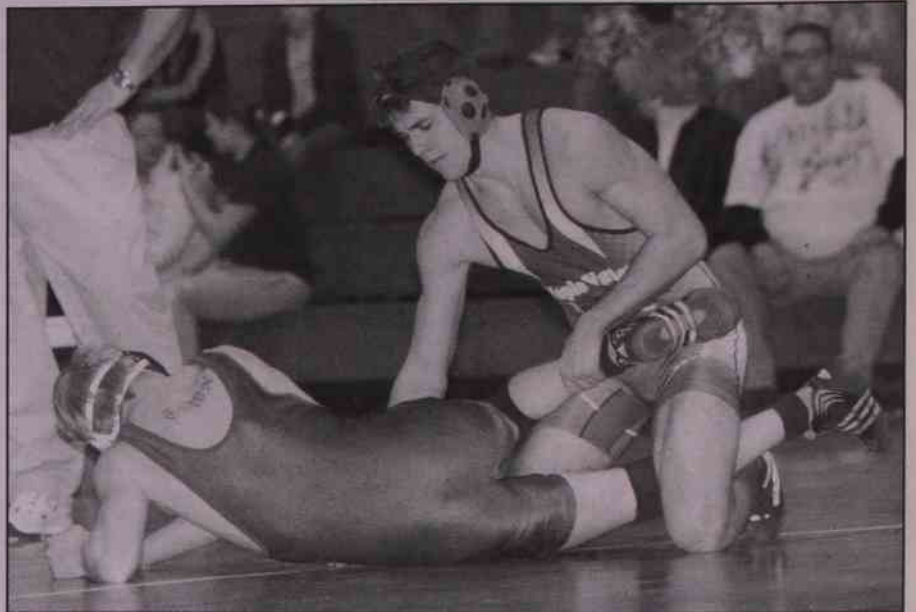
Chris Ricketts.

Cowell is a four-year wrestler at Maple Valley, who's in his first season as a team captain.

"He's leading by example," said Ricketts. "He's picking the other kids up when they're down. He had to learn that. That makes this real special to me."

Cowell's teammates needed some picking up on Wednesday, as the defending Kalamazoo Valley Association Panthers scored a 51-19 win over the visiting Lions. Only three other Maple Valley wrestlers won matches.

Lion heavyweight Donnie Jensen scored a 10-1 decision over Delton Kellogg's David Dalm after Cowell's win. The Lions made it three in a row when Zach Baird pinned Brandon Arnold 35 seconds into their 103-pound



Maple Valley's Josh Fulford (right) works to pull Delton Kellogg's Jeff Town back onto the mat during the second period of their 135-pound bout Wednesday at Delton Kellogg High School. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Barry County Commission on Aging Menu and Schedule of Events

Hearty Menu Monday, Jan. 26

Roast pork and gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, apple, corn bread.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Sheppard's pie, stewed tomatoes, spiced apples, tropical fruit, biscuit.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Chicken and bean casserole, green peas, plums, wheat bread.

Thursday, Jan. 29

Chicken chili, Calif. blend vegetables, peach cobbler, corn muffin.

Friday, Jan. 30

Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, banana, dinner roll

Cold Menu Monday, Jan. 26

Cottage cheese, Spanish bean salad, diced peaches, whole wheat crackers.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Ground bologna, American cheese, cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, hamburger bun.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Pork/Swiss cheese, cole slaw, tropical fruit, wheat bread.

Thursday, Jan. 29

Calif. Reuben spread, broccoli bacon salad, apricots, rye bread.

Friday, Jan. 30

Sliced chicken, corn and tomato salad, diced pears, wheat bread.

Activities Calendar

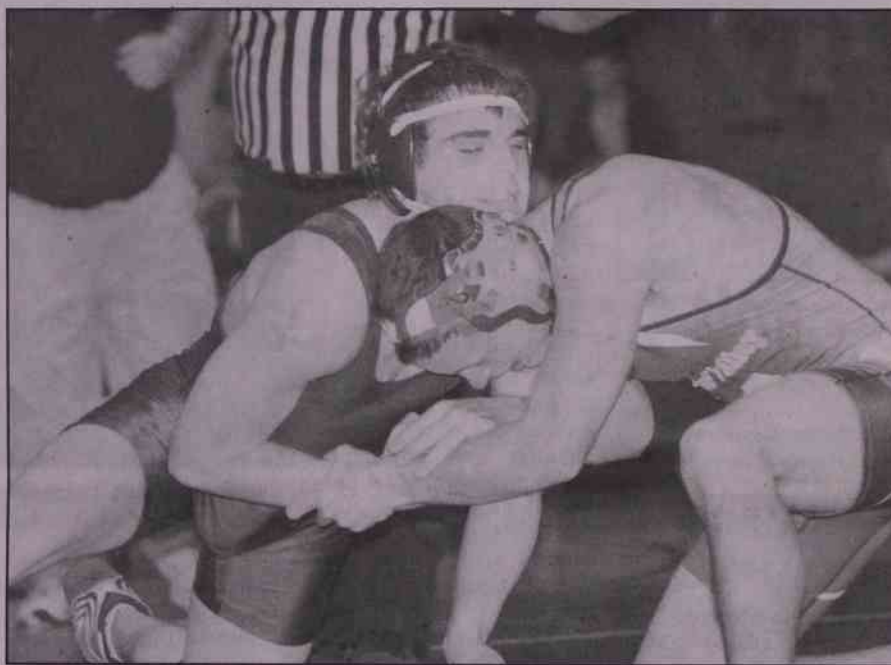
Monday, Jan. 26: Hastings - Music with Sam; Crafts 10:30 a.m.; Card Making 12:30 p.m.; Watercolor 1 p.m.; Kinship Care 6:30 p.m. Delton - Birthday Party. H, W, N - Reminiscence.

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Hastings - Pickle Ball Court available sign up for times; Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. GL - 10:30-12:30 Cards.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Hastings - Bible Study 12:30 p.m.; Music with Sam; Nails; Euchre 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Red Hat. Delton - Reminiscence.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Hastings - Line Dancing 9:30 a.m.; Pickle Ball Court available sign up for times. Nashville - TV Time; Delton - Puzzles, Trivia.

Friday, Jan. 30: Hastings - Exercise 9 a.m.; Mixed Media Painting, 9:30 a.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.; Model Railroad, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodland - Visiting.



Delton Kellogg's David Dempsey (left) avoids a shot by Maple Valley's Lucas Brumm during the first period of their 140-pound match Wednesday night. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

last week." Delton head coach Rob Heethuis said of topping the Lions. Last week, the Panthers lost their league dual with Schoolcraft.

Other winners for Delton on the night Wednesday were Jansen Fluty (171 pounds), Steven Romero (189), Jeff Town (135), Ray Lindsey (145), Harley Miller (152), and Trevor Curtice (160).

The Lions dropped a couple of close decisions, but still need to work on wrestling for the full six minutes. In a couple of the tight ones, the Lions failed to put pressure on their Delton opponent while trailing by a slim margin in the final seconds.

At 145, Tyler Franks did wrestle hard for six minutes and then some. He lost out in a 9-8 overtime decision against Lindsey. He scored a reversal with 32 seconds left in the third period to tie their match at eight, then managed to hold Lindsey down the rest of the period to send it to overtime. Franks was unable to get an escape in his 30 second overtime session though, and Lindsey managed to break free after choosing the bottom position for the win.

Maple Valley will be at Bellevue this Saturday for an invitational, then return to league action with a tough dual at Constantine Wednesday.

match.

Arnold's pin gave Maple Valley a 16-12 lead after five matches.

The next six Delton Kellogg wrestlers scored pins though, as their team took control. Panther state medallists Mark Loveland at 112 and Matt Loveland at 125 both pinned their Lion opponents. In between, Delton got a pin from Jeff Bissett at 125 pounds and Maple Valley forfeited the

119-pound match to Dylan Leinaar.

Maple Valley didn't get another win until Lucas Brumm scored a 6-1 decision against David Dempsey at 140 pounds.

The Lions are now 2-2 in the KVA, while Delton Kellogg improves to 4-1 in the league. Schoolcraft is 5-0 in the conference so far, with wins over both the Lions and Panthers.

"That was a big one, after

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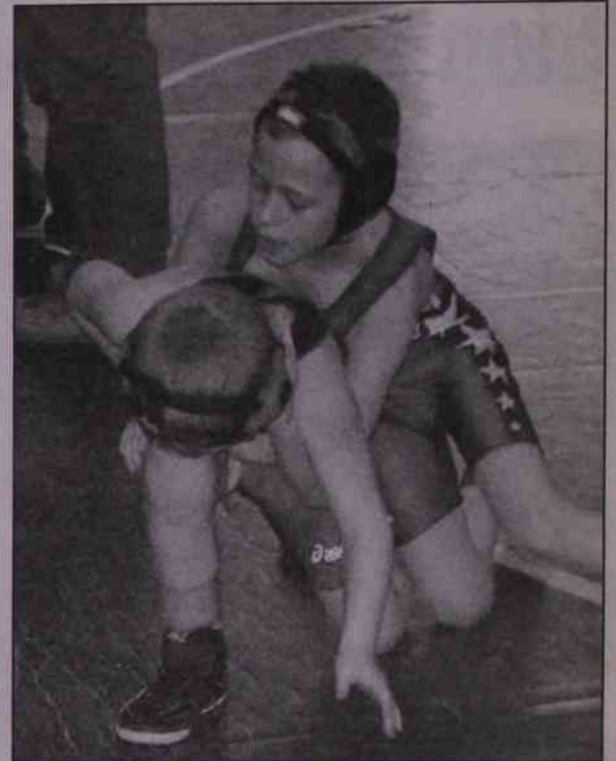
Area's young wrestlers win more medals

The Maple Valley Youth Wrestling Program had wrestlers compete in tournaments at Morley Stanwood, Hanover Horton and Dexter recently with a number of them taking home honors.

First place finishers at the tournaments for the Maple Valley program were Christian Schrader, Jesse Brumm, Garrett Pearson, and Chandler Murton.

Wyatt Baird, Chase Schriver, Austin Zank, Travis Franks, and Derek Dickinson placed second at their weight classes.

Zach Pixley, Ryan Bennett, and Rob Feasel earned third place medals. Dillon Terpenning was fourth.



Chase Schriver (top), wrestling his first tournament, won this match 10-8 for his second place medal.

COUNCIL, continued from page 1

going to debate this," said Dunham.

White also suggested that the village needs a job description and step-by-step breakdown of each job performed by village employees to better facilitate the evaluation process. He suggested something similar to the ISO 9000 program used by GM and other large companies.

"That would be unrealistic for this operation," said Dunham.

Kenyon later added that he also felt that ISO and related programs would be too time-consuming to be beneficial to the village.

White asked when and if the village would take action on a proposal to turn its zoning over to Barry County for administration.

"Why isn't it on the agen-

da for discussion and possible action," asked White.

"We're having a joint meeting of the council and the planning commission on February 3," replied Dunham. "This is going to be a drawn-out process; it's not going to get done over night."

Barry County Zoning Administrator Jim McManus attended the first regular meeting of the village council to discuss how the village could turn its zoning over to the county and the possible effects it would have.

McManus told the council that an intergovernmental agreement would be needed to give the county control over village zoning, an overlay would need to be created for the village, and the village's planning commission

would be an unofficial advisory board to the county.

He added that the process would take approximately one year and would cost the village about \$10,000.

Advantages to the village would include the elimination of budget concerns regarding planning and zoning. The five-year update of the village's zoning ordinances also would become the county's responsibility. However, disadvantages include lack of local control and access to zoning and planning staff — residents would have to drive to Hastings for permits.

The Nashville Village Council is planning a joint meeting with the Village Planning Commission at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Write Away contest deadline is Feb. 5

Organizers of the "Write Away" contest are hoping students in the area spent some time over Christmas break or on snow days working on poems or stories to submit to the contest. The deadline for submitting work to the contest, which offers cash prizes, is Feb. 5.

To encourage high school students in Hastings, Delton Kellogg, Thornapple Kellogg and Maple Valley High Schools and the Barry Intermediate School District with writing aspirations, the Barry Community Foundation promotes the "Write Away" competition funded by a grant from Kensinger and Alice Jones.

Winners in five different categories will be awarded \$50 cash prizes in the spring, along with certificates.

The competition is for all high school students who attend Maple Valley, Hastings, Delton Kellogg, Thornapple Kellogg and the BISD. There are two separate contests, one for students in grades 9 and 10, the other for students in grades 11 and 12. Freshmen and sophomores can submit a poem (preferably with rhyme and meter) and/or an essay.

The contest for juniors and seniors invites submission of a short story (not more than 1,500 words) on any subject, a poem (preferably with

rhyme and meter) and a feature story based on some aspect of life in Barry County.

Writers may submit only one entry in each category, but may enter all categories for their grade level and could possibly win more than one award.

Full details and official rules and entry blanks can be obtained from the English departments at the individual schools.

For more information, check with high school English departments or call the Barry Community Foundation at 269-945-0526 and ask for Erin.

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